

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the Abstract and claims 1 and 3 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Specification

Although not objected to, the Abstract of the specification is amended to remove reference characters.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,640,178 to Endo et al. ("Endo"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Endo fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims as amended. For example, Endo fails to disclose a pointing device, comprising a sensor substrate having a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface; a stick member including a base part is adhered to the first surface of the sensor substrate; and a plurality of strain sensors for detecting an operating state of the stick member, the strain sensors being provided on the second surface of the sensor substrate at positions where a part of each strain sensor overlaps with a lower surface of the base part of the stick member, as recited in amended claim 1, or the corresponding features recited in independent claim 3.

Endo relates to a pointing device which is used to move a pointer or cursor on a display of a computer to an arbitrary position on the display screen (col. 1, lines 4-8). As is shown in Figs. 13-16, the pointing device generally includes a substrate 51, a manipulating part 57, and a support 58. Strain gauges 52-55 are provided on the upper surface of the substrate 51 at 90° angular intervals. The strain gauges 52 and 53 detect the displacement in the direction Y and the displacement quantity of the manipulating part 57. The strain gauges 54 and 55 detect the displacement in the direction X in the displacement quantity of the manipulating part 57 (col. 9, lines 8-26).

Thus, as shown in at least Figs. 15 and 16, and described in the specification, the strain gauges, alleged to correspond to the sensors recited in the rejected claims, are provided on an upper surface of the substrate 51. In contrast, the amended claims recite that the plurality of strain sensors are provided on the second surface of the sensor substrate. The second surface of the sensor substrate is the surface opposite to the first surface upon which the stick member including the base part is adhered. Accordingly, Endo fails to disclose the features as alleged in the Office Action or recited in the amended claims.

In the seventh embodiment of Endo as shown, for example, at Figs. 20 and 21, strain gauge 55 is disposed on an underside of the substrate 51-2 opposite the strain gauge 54. However, even in this embodiment, Endo fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the claims as amended. For example, the amended claims recite that a stick member including a base part is adhered to the first surface of the sensor substrate and that a plurality of strain sensors are provided on the second surface of the sensor substrate, i.e., the surface opposite to the first surface. The stick member and its base part are not adhered to the sensor substrate in Endo. Rather, the base part is disposed at a distance above the substrate by being supported by the mounting portions 57c and the fulcrum 57d. Accordingly, none of the embodiments of the pointing device described in Endo disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Endo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,856,233 to Tsukada et al. ("Tsukada").

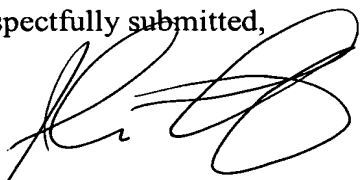
Claim 2 is allowable for its dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Furthermore, as Tsukada fails to overcome the deficiencies of Endo, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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